

Robinson gives *Collocalia innominata* as the species building edible nests in the caves of Belitong, an islet off Terutao. Further research on these birds in Siam seems desirable.

Dr. Sallet gives the popular name of the bird along the coast of Annam as "chim én", which may have some connection with the Siamese name "én" (อุ่น), applied to these and other swifts, as well as swallows.

The nests are made in caves and rock clefts, usually close to the sea coast, but occasionally some way inland, as, for instance, at a site near the middle of the island of Java. In this connection, attention might be drawn to McCarthy's report that people collect nests of edible swallows in a cave through which flows the Nam Ngun, a tributary of the left bank of the Mekong, in the Wieng Chan region (J. McCarthy. *Surveying and Exploring in Siam*, p. 185). It is stated that two eggs are laid, more rarely three, and that the whole incubation falls on the female. The nests are usually collected ten days after the laying, the collectors eating the eggs. Offerings are made to the "Goddess of the South Seas", or the presiding spirit of the place, before the collection begins. The author touches on the perils attendant on collecting the nests, fatal accidents to the collectors being not infrequent, as in this country.

As in Siam, three collections are made, after which the birds are allowed to build in peace. The building of the first nest takes about 70 days, of the second and third about 40. The quality of the nest is chiefly dependant on whether it is of the 1st, 2nd or 3rd, collection: the first collection being the best and the third the poorest. These qualities are again subdivided into a number of others, which can be distinguished by experts. Even the nests from two adjoining caves may be rated differently. Whole nests, as sold in the market, are usually without any adulteration, but the poorer qualities, consisting of fragments of nests, have often prepared seaweeds or other substances added.

Besides for their culinary uses, the Chinese esteem the nests for their therapeutic properties and as an aphrodisiac. They are used in the treatment of phthisis and pulmonary complaints, for which purposes a red coloured variety is most in demand.

As a minor criticism it may be noted that, in the map at the end of the work, Bangkok is represented as occupying the position of Rayawng, and Vientiane of Chiengkan. Those interested in the subject will find, gathered together in this volume, much interesting information not easily obtainable elsewhere.

A. K.

Descriptions of New Genera and Species of Siamese Fishes.
By Hugh M. Smith. No. 2873.—From the Proceedings of the United States National Museum. Vol. 79, Art. 7, pp. 1-48.

In this paper Dr. Hugh M. Smith enumerates 8 new genera and 33 new species belonging in 7 families. They are as follows:—

COBITIDAE—Loaches.

- Botia beauforti*, new species.
Botia horae, new species.

CYPRINIDAE—Minnows and Carps.

- Laubuca caeruleostigmata*, new species.
Danio kerri, new species.
Danio pulcher, new species.
Labeo bicolor, new species.
Cyclocheilichthys tapiensis, new species.
Puntius wetmorei, new species.
Puntius stictosomus, new species.
Poropuntius normani, new genus and species.
Barilius koratensis, new species.
Barilius pulchellus, new species.
Garra taeniata, new species.
Epalzeorhynchus siamensis, new species.
Scaphognathus stejnegeri, new genus and species.

BAGRIDAE—Bagrid Catfishes.

- Mystus havmollerii*, new species.

PANGASIIDAE—Pangasiid Catfishes.

- Pangasius cultratus*, new species.
Pangasius beani, new species.
Pangasius fowleri, new species.
Pangasius sanitwongsei, new species.

ARIIDAE—Sea Catfishes.

- Arius sciurus*, new species.

SYNAPTURIDAE—Soles.

- Synaptura aenea*, new species.

GOBIIDAE—Gobies.

- Gobiella pellucida*, new genus and species.
Thaigobiella sua, new genus and species.
Pogonogobius, new genus.
Eugnathogobius microps, new genus and species.
Pipidonia quinquecincta, new genus and species.
Herrea formosa, new genus and species.
Creisson sealei, new species.
Paragobiodion kerri, new species.
Rhinogobius similis, new species.
Rhinogobius atripinnatus, new species.
Cryptocentrus leonis, new species.
Apocryptodon malcolmi, new species.

The type specimens of the above have been deposited in the United States National Museum.

Twenty-two text figures illustrate the paper. Besides giving a detailed description of each species, Dr. Smith notes the points in which each resembles or differs from related species. Where known, Siamese names are given, usually with their translation in English. The author has some interesting notes on some of these species. For instance, *Pangasius sanitwongsei*, named after the late Dr. Yai S. Sanitwongse, is said to rival the celebrated *Pangasius* (pla buk) of the Me Kong basin. It is found in the Menam Chao Phya, where at least one specimen three metres in length has been recorded in the last eight years. Dr. Smith also tells us that the eggs of *Arius sciurus*, removed from the mouth of large males, in an agglutinated mass looking like a bunch of grapes, are exposed for sale in Bandon market.

Quite a number of the species described are known only from single specimens. It would seem probable that there are yet to be found more undescribed species, particularly in mountain streams. As the author remarks, the field is by no means exhausted, though he has had through his hands many thousands of specimens in the last eight or nine years.

A. K.

Les Moustiques de la Cochinchine et du Sud-Annam. By E. Borel. Masson et Cie., Paris, 1930.

In the preface of this book Professor Roubaud, of the Pasteur Institute at Paris, gives a summary of the author's work on mosquitoes. Dr. E. Borel was a medical officer of the French Colonial troops and attended a course of medical entomology under Prof. Roubaud in 1924. He evinced particular interest in the Culicidae and when he returned to Indo-China later in the year he was put in charge of Anti-malarial research at the Pasteur Institute at Saigon. For more than 3 years he worked steadily on the mosquito fauna of that country, not confining his attention to the Anopheline family which are of special medical interest, but collecting and arranging all the material that he could find. He returned to France in 1928 with the complete records of his work, intending to pursue his studies at the British Museum. Most unfortunately however he died while at home on leave and it was left to Prof. Roubaud to edit and publish this book.

The book is divided into three parts, the first of which deals very fully with the geography and climate of the area worked over.

This consisted of the province of Cochinchine, which includes Saigon, and of the southern part of the province of Annam.

The author's work, therefore, did not reach the Siamese frontier, but the climatic similarity of the deltas of Mekong and Menam Chao Phya enhances the local interest of this work.

The second part is devoted to a systematic description of species found, both of adults, male and female, and larvae.

The third part consists of discussion of malaria and two other